Replacement of over-aged rail wagons

1495. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of rail wagon industry in the country;

(b) whether the industry is not getting sufficient orders from the Railways;

(c) if so, how many rail wagons are overaged today; and

(d) how Government propose to replace these overaged wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) At present, there are 14 wagon manufacturing units in the country with wagon building capacity of around 40,000 four wheeler units.

(b) Procurement of wagons is dependent upon traffic needs and availability of funds. Requirement of wagons in foreseeable future is short of available wagon building capacity. As such wagon industry is required to adjust their capacities and not to be dependent on Railways alone for utilising their entire capacities.

(c) As on 1.4.2001, there were 26778.5 four wheeler units (FWUs) of over-aged BG wagons.

(d) Over-aged stock is condemned on age-cum-condition basis. Replacement of over-aged wagons is done after condemnation keeping in view the arising and availability of funds on a year-to-year basis.